The Scottish Parliament Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee Air Quality in Scotland

Submission by Dr Gary Fuller, UKRI Clean Air Champion and Senior Lecturer in Air Quality Measurement, Imperial College London

13 April 2023

Regarding the remit of the round table I'd be happy to talk about the measured effectiveness of the ULEZ and previously the LEZ in London. I have some experience of bus only LEZs too. Beyond issues with NO2 it is important that we also consider actions on PM2.5 and the integration of air pollution and climate policies. There is a substantial opportunity to ensure that our path to net zero is optimised for the best outcome for air pollution and public health. At the moment there are areas where climate policies such as biomass burning, the dieselisation of our vehicle fleet and urban CHP have been harmful for air pollution and it is unclear if they have helped climate too. So for the future the difficulties of attaining WHO guidelines for NO2 could be made worse by decisions to burn hydrogen or hydrogen fossil methane mixtures for building heating etc in our urban areas. For PM there are ongoing questions around non-exhaust emissions from traffic as well as other sources including solid fuel heating and agriculture. It is also important that air pollution evidence is clearly communicated to the public and decision makers. Regarding public engagement I would be happy to describe some of our projects at Imperial including our work with schools and the Breathe London project.